

McGregor et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Liu et al. McGregor et al. discloses freeze-dried collagen sponges, as noted above. McGregor et al. does not teach or suggest a method of forming a breast implant of resorbable material and sizing the implant to occupy a cavity formed in the breast as recited in amended claim 10.

The cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in amended claim 10. Claim 10, and its dependent claims 11-15 and 20 respectfully are submitted as being patentable over the cited prior art.

The present invention as recited in new independent claim 21 is a breast implant made up of a self-expanding matrix of biocompatible material. The matrix has a porous structure for supporting surrounding tissue of a breast, and provides a framework for the in-growth of fibrous tissue into the matrix. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teaches or suggests a breast implant made of a self-expanding matrix as recited in claim 21. Claim 21, and its dependent claims 22-24, are submitted as being patentable over the cited prior art.

Allowable claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 18, from which new claim 19 depends.

The application is submitted as being in condition for allowance.

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Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Signature

April 17, 2000

Date of Signature

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Enclosures: 1 month extension of time
Fig. 3 Drawing Correction

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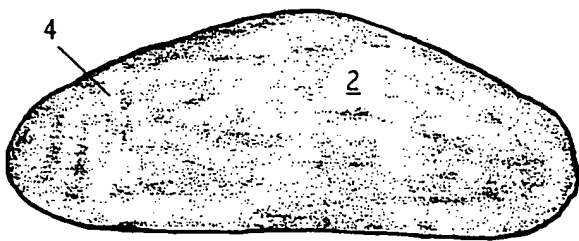


FIG. 1

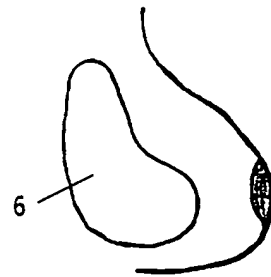


FIG. 2

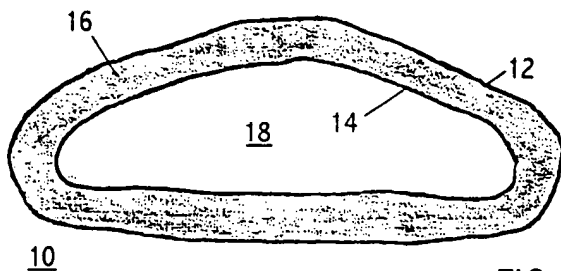


FIG. 4

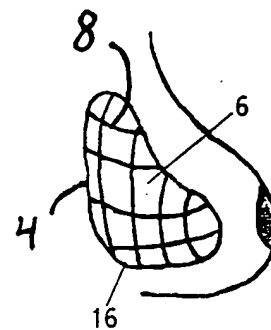


FIG. 3

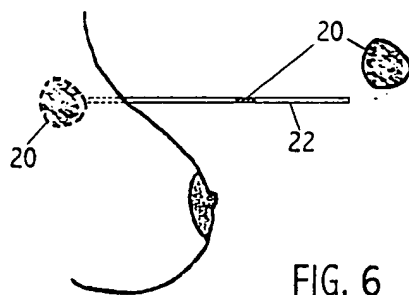


FIG. 6

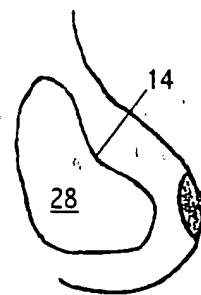


FIG. 5



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